



BETWEEN THE PAGES

Huntsville Public Library Monthly Newsletter

CANVA 101

BY JALPA SHAH, IT SERVICES COORDINATOR

What else can Canva help you with? You've may have heard that Canva can help you design things like invitations, banners, social media posts, or thank you cards. But did you know that Canva can help you improve your study materials as well? You can use one of Canva's many templates to create recorded presentations or even publish your design on a website.

Learning a new software can be intimidating but the Library is here to help you! Canva classes will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 14. The same version of the two-part class will be held in the evenings at 5 p.m. on Thursday, December 9 and Thursday, December 16 in the Monday Computer Room. This FREE two day course will introduce the basic tools used in design, the strategic use of color and font, how to make the best of templates, and advanced tips to expedite your design process. This program is for adults 17 years or older and a library card is required to attend the class. Class size is limited and registration is required. You can register online at myhuntsvillelibrary.com. For more information, call the IT Reference Desk at 936-291-5485.

I started learning Canva in 2018. Previously, I had mainly used Publisher to make digital designs. At first, I felt Canva was something I might use occasionally. But after a few months, I could tell using Canva really made a difference in my work since I could use it for so many different things! My favorite thing to do is design beautiful graphics with the art of alignment.



With Canva Pro, I can create amazing designs, documents and presentations in minutes for all my creative projects. Canva has thousands of free, high quality templates on any subject or topic imaginable to help you ace your work, no need to start from scratch! You can plan your projects and put your own unique touches on them.

You can present live in-person or virtually, or you can include a recorded track over your presentation, and share. You can also download your presentation to PowerPoint, or even publish it as a responsive website, to make it even easier to access.

Come learn this user-friendly tool at Huntsville Public Library from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Tuesday, December 7 and Tuesday, December 14 as well as from 5 - 6 p.m. on Thursday, December 9, and Thursday, December 16 in the Monday Computer Room.



LEARN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE WITH PRONUNCIATOR

BY MARY KOKOT, ADULT SERVICES COORDINATOR



Are you interested in brushing up on your high school French to prepare for that anniversary trip to Paris? Or maybe a trip to Aruba is in your near future and you can't remember how to say, "I'd like another," in Spanish. Don't despair! You don't need to hire an expensive tutor or go back to school. From the comfort of your home, learn either of those two languages or choose from 162 others, all free to you, courtesy of Huntsville Public Library. Pronunciator is the name of our language learning program, which is easily located on our website near the bottom of the home page. A mobile app is also available for those on the go. Pronunciator can create highly personalized courses for an individual, targeting personal interests, occupation, learning goals, and available time for learning.

For those who want to learn or improve their English skills, Pronunciator offers 120 home languages (the language you speak at home – and therefore your best choice in which to learn any new language) from which to choose. Each home language has translations, navigation options, thousands of hours of audio lessons, and, in many cases even narrators and virtual coaches in that language, for a truly localized — and personalized — learning experience. You can create personalized courses from any home language you like!

Pronunciator also has over 21,920 phrasebooks available for download. These can be read using any device that supports PDF files. Each 32- to 64-page phrasebook contains 1,500 key phrases, displayed in two columns: On the left is your language; on the right is the foreign language. You can generate phrasebooks in any language combination you like. Pronunciator even has 5.5 million hours of audio lessons available for streaming and download. You can find the audio lessons within the Main Course of each language.





WHY **STREAM** WHEN YOU CAN **SAVE**?

BY BAILLIE PRETZER, CHILDREN'S COORDINATOR

Subscription streaming services like Netflix and Hulu have become a major source through which the general public gains access to entertainment. Yet, the nature of subscription streaming service is changing as each television network also develops its own streaming service as a means of boosting revenue and staying relevant against the competition. Unfortunately, by streaming only specific shows on specific networks, end users often find themselves having to pay for multiple subscriptions to access all their favorite shows.

As the quantity of their subscriptions increase and the cost for each continues to rise, many subscribers must inevitably choose between one service or another. More specifically, the cost of a Netflix subscription has increased approximately \$13.00 USD since the early days of receiving a DVD in the mail. Additionally, in an effort to compete with one another, other major entertainment networks like HBO, FX, STARZ, and even Bravo have now added their own streaming services and discontinued offering exclusive access to their content to Netflix and Hulu. The advent of Disney+ even removed regular shows from their own sister-networks like National Geographic and movies from their sister-production companies such as Pixar.

The popularity of streaming ensures these services are here to stay, but rather than keep costs low, the rise in competition likely means costs will continue to increase as subscribers must pay for additional services to meet all their interests. Before long, their subscriptions start adding up to as much as, if not more than, traditional cable or satellite service from companies such as DirecTV, Suddenlink, and Time Warner. Although some streaming services offer combo packages like Disney+ with Hulu and ESPN, you may very likely end up paying for more than you actually watch.

To illustrate the cost of subscribing to each streaming service, let's say you really enjoy the Netflix original content. The cost of their "standard service," which allows you to stream on two screens simultaneously, is \$13.99 per month. Meanwhile, your spouse enjoys HBO Max for its early release of premium movies at a cost of \$14.99 per month. Your two children love Disney+, which costs \$7.99 per month, and Hulu at a cost of \$7.00 for their most basic plan. That's a total cost of nearly \$50 per month before you even consider all the new subscription services like Amazon Video, Peacock, Paramount +, or Apple TV. As new shows are developed, it can be tempting to add a few more services here and there or rent new releases on Amazon Video, but all these can really start to add up!



<u>Monthly Streaming Costs:</u>	
Netflix	\$13.99/Month
HBO Max	\$14.99/Month
Disney+	\$7.99/Month
Hulu Basic	\$7.00/Month
Amazon Video	\$12.99/Month
Paramount+	\$11.99/Month

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So why pay for all of that when your local library stays on top of trending TV series as well as the latest movie releases? The bedrock of public libraries is a commitment to serve the popular interests of the public and maintain an engaging, culturally relevant collection. Huntsville Public Library regularly adds more titles to our collection of television shows, movies, and documentaries, many of which would otherwise only be available by purchasing the DVD online or paying for a monthly subscription service. Our goal is to ensure we meet the needs of our patrons. As a public library, we take pride in serving the Huntsville community and welcome public input regarding the collection. If there are DVDs you'd like to see that the library doesn't already have, feel free to submit a purchase request form so we know what is relevant and most important to you.

HI-LO INFO

BY LINDA HUFF, RESOURCE COORDINATOR

Huntsville Public Library will soon add a new collection area to the shelves! Our "Rapid Reads" section will be housed in the adult section of the library. A carefully curated selection of books designed for emerging adult readers, these books are designed for those who want to improve their reading skills but desire more complex stories than those available in the Children's collection.

Several months ago, an occupational therapist visited the library with some of her patients who had recently suffered memory loss due to illness or injury. She was in our children's section looking for low level reading material to help her clients. However, it was difficult to find any lower reading level books with subject matter that would appeal to these adult readers. In response to her request for more mature materials written on a second to third grade reading level, we will have a small collection available for check-out in the next month or so.

Your library is committed to meeting the needs of all our community members. Who will benefit from this new collection? In addition to adults who suffer memory loss for various reasons and need to practice their reading skills, we believe these books will be a perfect fit for adult English as a Second Language students who are learning new vocabulary and syntax skills. Likewise, some of our new adult literacy students can practice their newly acquired skills with books more suited to their interests.

